



January 28, 2022

UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hello, we had a staff member test positive last evening which will affect some residents on Carlow. These individual families have been contacted to let them know.

At this time social outings or social overnight absences for residents are not allowed. Please find the link here regarding the current guidelines from the Ministry of Long Term Care.

<https://stpats.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/LTC-Visitors-Absences-and-Social-Gatherings-Snapshot-2021.12.28.pdf>

We are receiving the results of the surveillance testing for the residents completed this week on many of the home areas and they are negative. If we continue to see negative results, the isolation precautions will be lifted after the full 10 day isolation period. The specific date vary by the home area and the date of the contact but over the weekend we will see a number of residents being removed from their isolation.

Covid19 Booster/Third Doses

Yesterday afternoon, the Ministry of Long Term Care revised the Directive which identified the vaccination requirements for staff, students, support workers and designated caregivers. This new Directive outlines the following amended requirements which are outlined in yellow. The requirement for a third dose vaccination has been changed to March 14.

Proof of Covid19 Vaccine or Medical Exemption	Staff, Support Workers, student placements and volunteers	Caregivers
Proof of First Dose or Proof of Medical Exemption	Currently required to be fully vaccinated.	Currently required
Proof of being Fully Vaccinated (2 Doses) Against Covid19 or Proof of Medical Exemption	Currently required to be fully vaccinated.	By February 21, 2022
Proof of Third Dose or Medical Exemption	By March 14, 2022 for those eligible for a third dose before March 14, 2022 For those eligible for a third dose on or after March 14, 2022, they must provide proof of having received the third dose within 30 day of being eligible.	By March 14, 2022 for those eligible for a third dose before March 14, 2022 For those eligible for a third dose on or after March 14, 2022, they must provide proof of having received the third dose within 30 day of being eligible.

In spite of this change, we encourage everyone to get their third dose as soon as you are eligible. As of today 92% of the staff who are eligible have had their 3rd dose.

Please find attached some key messages provided by the Ministry of Long Term Care regarding vaccinations.

Stay safe and well,

Janet Morris
President and CEO

Vaccination Key Messages

- The evidence about the Omicron variant is still evolving. However, we know this variant is more transmissible than previous variants.
- The number of people who have become infected with Omicron is increasing rapidly. Reinfection is more common than with other variants and two doses of vaccine are unlikely to protect against Omicron infection.
- While the scientific learning is still evolving, illness appears to be less severe from the Omicron variant. Data from multiple countries including England, Scotland, South Africa, United States and Ontario suggest the risk of Omicron hospitalization and/or death is lower than for Delta.
- While severity of illness from Omicron among unimmunized and/or previously uninfected individuals remains uncertain, including among the elderly, it is clear that vaccination does reduce the risk of hospitalization.
- Vaccination remains the best defence against COVID-19, including the Omicron variant.
- High rates of vaccination, including booster doses, can also help preserve hospital capacity —despite being less severe relative to Delta, Omicron is causing significant burden on the health care system.
- Boosters provide better protection against the Omicron variant. For example:
 - A study from England showed a third dose was 88% effective at preventing hospitalization following infection with Omicron.
 - Another study from the United Kingdom (UK) in those 65 years of age and over showed a booster was 94% effective against hospitalization within two to nine weeks and 89% effective at 10 or more weeks.
- Overall, the available evidence shows that vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic infection and infection due to the Omicron variant wanes over time following a second dose.
- Many studies estimate little to no protective effect six months after second dose; emerging data from the UK suggest that effectiveness against symptomatic infection is restored to 50% to 70% in the first three months following a third dose.
- Data from the United States and the UK demonstrate that vaccine effectiveness against hospitalization also wanes over time from second dose and a third dose is shown to restore that protection to about 90%.
- Even for people infected with COVID-19, a third dose offers increased protection and can be administered in Ontario as soon as symptoms have resolved and the isolation period is over, with the optimal time being at least 30 days after infection.

- Pfizer and Moderna are both mRNA vaccines. Since they use the same technology, they can be safely mixed and will provide a strong immune response that protects against severe illness.
- Some evidence already suggests Moderna produces somewhat higher antibody levels compared to Pfizer. Vaccination and boosters with Moderna may also provide longer-lasting protection against infection and severe illness, particularly in older individuals.